

# DRAGON MOSQUITO CONTROL

## AUGUST 2018 UPDATE

August was a good month for mosquitoes. Much of the credit is due to the wet weather in the first half of the month. Weather and mosquito activity are closely tied together. Adult mosquitoes cannot hatch without water and August provided plenty of rain. In fact, we had near record rainfall in many southeastern New Hampshire communities. The month also bestowed two other mosquito friendly conditions: warm temperatures and humidity. These conditions speed up mosquito development and conversely, can slow down crews working in the field.

Increased numbers of mosquitoes create a greater potential for disease activity. New Hampshire Bureau of Infectious Disease Control has reported 13 mosquito batches and four birds that tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV) to date. Massachusetts has had nine WNV human cases and more than 400 WNV positive mosquito batches. In addition, Maine confirmed their first WNV positive mosquito batch in Kittery at the end of August. Disease activity is on the rise in the state and throughout the country.

West Nile Virus has been found in mosquitoes trapped in North Hampton, Salem, Nashua, Manchester and Keene. Hawks in Plaistow, Fremont and Salem and a crow in Plaistow were killed by West Nile Virus this season. Currently, no Eastern Equine Encephalitis has been detected in New Hampshire. Mosquito trapping and State Lab testing will continue through mid-October.

As Hurricane season intensifies, more rain is likely. Continue to dump out standing water each time it rains. Remember to check anywhere water collects such as boats, tarps, pool covers, dog bowls, birdbaths, tires and buckets. Wherever you are, protect yourselves from mosquito bites. Wear long pants and long sleeves, use insect repellent and avoid being outside at dusk and dawn whenever possible. Avoiding mosquito bites remains the number one way to avoid mosquito borne disease.

Respectfully Submitted,  
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